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Message Text

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ORIGIN PM-03

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OSD/ISA/NESA:CDR SICK
OSD/ISA/FMRA:CDR GRUNAWALT
AF/E:MR. BRESSLER
SCI/SAM:COL VOGT
EUR/CE:MR. WILGIS
L/PM:MR. BOREK
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R 171924Z OCT 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
OASD WASH DC/ISA/FMRA
CSAF WASH DC/XOXXGIF
USDAO BONN GE
AFSC ANDREWS AFB MD/DOSF
AFETR PATRICK AFB FL/RUOO
NASA WASH DC/TN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 228604

E.O. 11652: ADS, DECLASS WHEN OPERATING RIGHTS REQUESTED
HEREIN HAVE BEEN GRANTED.
TAGS: MILI OCLR TSPA MP

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR FOREIGN OPERATING RIGHTS - PROGRAM
HELIOS

1. THE AIR FORCE EASTERN TEST RANGE (AFETR) DESIRES TO
USE PLAISANCE AERODROME, MAURITIUS TO STAGE EC-135
INSTRUMENTED AIRCRAFT IN SUPPORT OF A JOINT UNITED
STATES/WEST GERMANY EXPERIMENTAL SATELLITE LAUNCH
(PROGRAM ENTITLED HELIOS). THE SATELLITE IS EXPECTED
TO PROVIDE A NEW UNDERSTANDING OF FUNDAMENTAL SOLAR
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PROCESSES AND SUN/EARTH RELATIONSHIPS BY OBTAINING

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INFORMATION AND MEASUREMENTS ON THE SOLAR WIND, MAGNETIC AND ELECTRIC FIELDS, COSMIC RAYS, COSMIC DUST, SOLAR DISC, AND A TEST OF THE THEORY OF GENERAL RELATIVITY.

2. DURING THE SATELLITE LAUNCH, TELEMETRY DATA WILL BE REQUIRED PRIOR TO SATELLITE INSERTION INTO ORBIT. THIS DATA WILL BE USED TO ASSIST GROUND STATIONS IN TRACKING THE SPACE VEHICLE OR TO DETERMINE CAUSE OF ANY POSSIBLE SYSTEM MALFUNCTION. TO OBTAIN THE TELEMETRY DATA AND MAKE RELAY BACK TO APPROPRIATE GROUND STATIONS THE EC-135 INSTRUMENTED AIRCRAFT WILL HAVE TO FLY TO A TEST SUPPORT POSITION 900 NAUTICAL MILES SOUTHWEST OF MAURITIUS. AS THE SATELLITE LAUNCH PROGRESSES THE SUPPORT REQUIREMENT

FOR TELEMETRY DATA WILL GRADUALLY MOVE EASTWARD. TO SATISFY THIS REQUIREMENT AND TO PROVIDE THE BEST POSSIBLE TELEMETRY SUPPORT FOR THE LAUNCH, STAGING FROM PLAISANCE IS NECESSARY.

3. THE INITIAL USE OF PLAISANCE IS TENTATIVELY PROPOSED FOR 6 JAN 75. HOWEVER, A PROVISION ALLOWING FOR SLIPPAGE TO 31 JAN 75 IS DESIRED. AIRCRAFT WOULD STAGE/RECOVER AT ABOVE AIRFIELD ONLY IF HELIOS LAUNCH IS SCHEDULED BETWEEN THOSE DATES.

4. UP TO TWO EC/NKC-135 (BOEING 707) AIRCRAFT WITH U.S. GOVERNMENT OWNED TELEMETRY EQUIPMENT PERMANENTLY INSTALLED WOULD BE USED. EACH CREW WOULD CONSIST OF APPROXIMATELY FOUR OFFICERS, 13 AIRMEN, AND ONE DOD SPONSORED CIVILIAN OR CIVILIAN CONTRACTOR (ALL U.S. CITIZENS).

5. LOCAL PURCHASE OF UP TO 98,000 POUNDS OF JET FUEL AND OIL, 670 GALLONS OF DEMINERALIZED WATER, AND USE OF POWER AND STARTING EQUIPMENT WOULD BE REQUIRED FOR EACH FLIGHT. BILLETING WOULD ALSO BE NECESSARY 24 HOURS PRIOR TO AND POSSIBLY 24 HOURS AFTER MISSION SUPPORT. AUTHORITY IS ALSO DESIRED FOR AIRCRAFT COMMANDER TO COMMUNICATE FROM AIRCRAFT ON GROUND AT PLAISANCE WITH MAHE ISLAND STATION SHOULD AIRCRAFT DEVELOP CONFIDENTIAL

MAINTENANCE PROBLEMS. ONE OF THE FOLLOWING HIGH FREQUENCIES WOULD BE USED: 5810 KHZ, 10780 KHZ, OR 2039.0 KHZ IN UPPER SIDE BAND MODE (VOICE). IF THE COMMUNICATION REQUIREMENT WILL CAUSE ANY CLEARANCE DELAY OR DIFFICULTY, AFETR WILL WITHDRAW REQUEST. GENERALLY THE MISSILE TELEMETRY/OPTICAL DATA WILL NOT BE RELEASABLE TO THE HOST NATION. HOWEVER LOCAL OFFICIALS COULD BE PERMITTED TO VISIT THE AIRCRAFT AT THE AIRPORT

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PROVIDING THE PARTY IS LIMITED IN SIZE.

6. REQUEST EMBASSY SEEK APPROVAL OF GOVERNMENT OF MAURITIUS FOR THIS PROPOSAL. PROVIDED OPERATING RIGHTS ARE GRANTED, AFETR WILL FORWARD FURTHER INFORMATION IAW USAF FOREIGN CLEARANCE GUIDE. KISSINGER

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